



>>> Discussion #1 summary – August 2025

Youth unity in schools

How to catalyse, support and sustain a youth-led national movement – together.

- **A principle: Conversations that start in schools continue in youth groups.**
 - Prayer to follow Christ is rare at school itself.
 - If conversation happens, new youth are more responsive when they visit a youth group, and last longer in their faith if they respond.
- **A key dynamic change:** The difference from the 1990s to today is that school groups went from “Youth leader led, student supported –to student led, youth leader supported.”
- **A principle: If we talk about school groups they come into existence – and visa versa:** Maintaining the discussion and priority amongst national youth leaders is vital to the sustainability of school groups.
- **The overarching programme of a school group: Unite – pray – do.** (I.e, Very little programmatic instruction. Each group makes that up – following their unity together in prayer). This parallels the ‘New Generation’ school groups movement in Europe which started from Sweden, This matches a USA model called ‘Claim your campus’ which suggest youth pray for their school, identify challenges – and then pray some more (the implication being, this is done with a view to God's help in bringing solutions).
- **Catalyst's vision:** The Catalyst team are travelling to empower and release – not desiring ‘position’ in the process. Not wanting to dominate this space.
 - **‘Jesus Clubs’ – a training manual,** to help youth reach youth, mentored by their youth leaders.
- **A principle: Prayer as a priority.**
- **An idea:** IBS (Inductive Bible Study) is an easy and valuable approach.
- **Does a school group need formal approval from a school?** If a formal request is denied, that's not the end. Youth can still pray and live with intent. Micah noted this. Neville Bartley had noted school girls sitting while eating lunch – bibles open for discussion – group growing week to week.
- **A principle: If we support school groups they stay in existence – and if we don't, they don't.** Dave shared the Taranaki story, where an annual gathering of school group participants from across the province brought sustainability to the vision for almost a decade beyond the demise of similar groups nationwide. This models a principle. Wise structure is needed to support purpose, especially where leadership change is common. New innovation is otherwise often short-lived.
- **A programme need: A ‘Pray For Your Schools Day’ to catalyse groups in all schools annually** – if timed for late February, could be used by national and local youth leaders to catalyse Christian youth uniting in every school to pray. They then naturally consider what they might be able to do together the rest of the year. *Might this idea be the necessary starting ‘structure’ for the annual catalysing of these groups to become sustainable?*
- **Idea: Mike T (Alpha) and Ed B-B have a conference idea** – duplicating ‘Spheres’, which is a conference from Australia Alpha helped in the initiation of. Focused on all areas of outreach, were all ‘round table’ leaders involved, the duplicating of this conference to other / all provinces could become plausible – providing a platform for needed united outreach focus, prayer, equipping, school groups and events.